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## EDITORIALS\*

## SPLENDID WORK IN RECENT STATE **ELECTIONS**

A New Line of Activity in a State Election.— In the recent primary election the Los Angeles County Medical Association showed how the medical profession may make its influence felt in the selection of candidates to the legislature and other state offices. Careful preliminary planning and a loyal and hard-working group of interested members demonstrated how success could be attained in legitimate political activity.

The officers of the Association made an accurate survey of each of the thirty assembly districts of Los Angeles County, and then appointed special subcommittees or key-men for each of the assembly districts, sending special letters of information to all members in each district so that contacts with the key-men were made easy. In a preliminary announcement in the Bulletin of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, printed on August 18, Secretary Harry Wilson stated:

"The Association is interested, as any group of intelligent and patriotic citizens should be, in good government. The Association urges its members to

support only those candidates who stand for good, constructive government. It asks its members to learn more about the candidates in their districts than they have been accustomed to learning in the past, and for a very definite reason. . .

"The Association feels that good government is sufficient for the protection of the medical profession. It asks its members not only to vote intelligently, but to aid in the campaigns of such candidates they, as individuals, select as worthy."...

An Estimate of the Results.—After the primary election it was possible to estimate somewhat the effectiveness of the work which had been done, and it was most gratifying to note that the end-results fully warranted all the efforts that had been put forth. If the largest county medical unit of the California Medical Association was able to do these things in a metropolitan community, where political forces are many and difficult to overcome, then other county units should be able to get results equally efficient. There is yet time for every county medical unit of the California Medical Association to create an effective organization prior to the final elections in November. Officers and members of county societies who desire additional information on methods of procedure can secure the same through the California Medical Association Department of Public Relations, or from the Los Angeles County Medical Association. (For addresses, see index on front cover.) The open letter which Dr. William R. Molony, president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, submitted to the Los Angeles County Medical Association after the primary election, was printed in the September 15 Bulletin and is as follows:

"Politically minded! Our critics have been saying lo—these many years, that we have lacked this quality. But no more—at least for this year—can we be accused of being careless and asleep at the switch. The enthusiastic cooperation of the members of our Association during the recent primary campaign was most gratifying and is a source of added zest to the members and officers of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

"The major credit must go to the group of earnest men who comprised the executive division of the Legislative Committee and who in turn were the 'keymen' in their respective assembly districts. In practically every district the nominees of both the Republican party and the Democratic party were men and women endorsed by the Los Angeles County Medical Association as candidates worthy of our support for good government, education, and public health.

"In those districts where a close contest is at hand for the final run-off in November, the 'key-men' and this committee will be on the job and will have the united support of our Association. We must now turn our attention to a careful examination and scrutiny of the candidates for the other elected officerscounty, state, and federal. With the organization as now constituted, I believe that the same careful, earnest and enthusiastic action will be had as we have iust witnessed.

"The Los Angeles County Medical Association has a membership of more than 2,100. Your influence is more widespread and penetrating than any other similar group in the county, and if you do not fully capitalize this asset it is in a sense your own fault. We should not exert our power for selfish purposes, but rather for good government, proper medical standards, and for the public health."

<sup>\*</sup> Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comments column, which follows.